

# **Unit 4.**

# **Federal**

# **Frequency**

# **Validation**

# What to Send to the Federal Frequency Coordinator

- Letter of endorsement from local NWS office
- Letter of request asking to use Federal Hydrologic Frequencies
- Copy of FCC license applications
- Optional supporting material you think will be helpful (diagrams, additional info, etc.)

# NWS Endorsement

- Letter of Endorsement is sent from the local NWS to you.
- NWS letter should state that the NWS supports the project
- Existing systems may use a past dated letter, though not older than five years.

# Sample NWS Endorsement



06-48

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE  
192 Shafer Road  
Moon Township, Pennsylvania 15108

March 15, 2006

3 Rivers Wet Weather, Inc.

John Schombert  
3 Rivers Wet Weather Inc.  
3901 Penn Avenue, Bldg. #3  
Pittsburgh, PA 15224

Dear Mr. Schombert,

This is in response to your request for a support letter from a local Federal "cooperator" for FCC licenses in the weather VHS band for the telemetry being installed on your network as part of your NOAA Grant NA05NWS4501005.

NOAA's National Weather Service Forecast Office in Pittsburgh is a cooperator on this project. Upon completion of the project, the data from thirty-three 3 Rivers Wet Weather, Inc rain gages will be available in real-time to forecasters at Pittsburgh for use in our flash flood warning program. In addition to the local office, the data will be available to local emergency managers, the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency, and the general public through the Automated Flood Warning System web site.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Theresa Rossi".

Theresa Rossi  
Meteorologist-in-Charge



# Letter of Request

- Letter of Request is from you to the Federal Hydrologic Radio Frequency Coordinator
- Request should contain:
  - General description of your intent
  - Formal request to use Federal Hydrologic frequencies
  - Map or diagram showing points of communication



## Sample Letter of Request

[www.3riverswetweather.org](http://www.3riverswetweather.org)

Phone: 412-578-8375 • Fax: 412-578-8065

3901 Penn Avenue • Building #3 • Pittsburgh, PA 15224

April 14, 2006

Larry Wenzel  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Re: FCC License application  
3 Rivers Wet Weather Demonstration Program

Dear Mr. Wenzel:

3 Rivers Wet Weather, Inc is a nonprofit corporation whose mission is to create cost-effective solutions to this region's water quality problems associated with sanitary and combined sewer overflows and stormwater management. We have operated a sophisticated calibrated radar rainfall system in Allegheny since 2001 that creates 2276 virtual raingages at a square kilometer resolution. This has been a valuable tool for the region's engineers in assessing wet weather impacts on sewer infrastructure.

In August 2005 we were awarded a grant from NOAA to "*Incorporate the 3 Rivers Wet Weather Demonstration Program's Calibrated Radar Rainfall System into the ALERT/IFLOWS to Enhance the AFWS in Allegheny County*". As part of this project we are converting our existing raingage network data transfer system to microwave radio transmissions. The attached FCC license application is requesting authorization to utilize the dedicated weather frequencies to transmit this hydrologic data. The National Weather Service in Moon Twp, Pennsylvania is a cooperating partner in this project. (Support letter attached).

If you have any questions regarding our application, please contact me.

Sincerely,



John Schombert  
Executive Director



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# Where to Send

- Email all materials to

[Hydro.Radio.Freq@noaa.gov](mailto:Hydro.Radio.Freq@noaa.gov)

# What Happens Next

- If there are no objections from Federal Government agencies, you will usually receive a validation letter in 5-7 days, normally by email with a PDF attachment.
- Then log into the FCC site and click the “Attachment” button for each pending application. See Unit 6, “Electronic Attachments”.
- Submit the application with attachments to the FCC.



# Sample Federal Hydrologic Approval Letter



**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**  
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE  
1325 East-West Highway  
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910-3283

May 23, 2006

LAW  
06-52A

Mr. John Schombert  
3 Rivers Wet Weather  
3901 Penn Ave  
Building #3  
Pittsburgh, PA 15224207

Dear Mr. Schombert:

The Federal Interagency Hydrologic Radio Frequency Coordination Group has no objections to 3 Rivers Wet Weather request to establish a network to collect and receive hydrologic data utilizing frequency 170.250 MHz as outlined in your letter dated, April 14, 2006.

The location names for this request include:

2536 Toner Ave  
Sewerage Treatment Plant  
4011 Dickey Rd

Submit this letter along with your application to the FCC in order to receive licensing. By copy of this letter, the FCC and IRAC are being advised of this action.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lawrence A. Wenzel".

Lawrence A. Wenzel  
Federal Coordinator  
for Hydrologic Radio Frequencies

cc:  
FCC  
IRAC



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# VERY IMPORTANT FOR ONLINE FILERS

- The FCC only keeps your application online for **30 days**.
- BUT, the Federal clearance process usually is longer than 30 days
- SO, to prevent losing your work, log on before the 30 day period ends
- Click on “Check Errors” for each application.
- This will reset the FCC’s 30 day clock.

